

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for medication delivery comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a medication container containing a prescribed medication and a first label containing data on the prescribed medication and instruction of delivering of the medication, the prescribed medication data and the instruction of delivering the medication being provided in machine readable format;

(b) providing a tag adapted to be worn by a patient, the tag having a second label containing data of the patient, the patient data being provided in machine readable format;

(c) providing a handheld computing device with:

means for reading the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction from the first label and patient data from the second label;

means for storing the data and instruction; and

means for communicating data and instruction to other electronic devices; and

(d) the handheld computing device reading the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction from the first label and storing the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction;

(e) the handheld computing device reading the patient data from the second label and storing the patient data;

(f) the handheld computing device comparing the stored prescribed medication data to the stored patient data and confirming a match between the stored prescribed medication data and the stored patient data; and

(g) the handheld computing device communicating ~~and downloading~~ the stored medication delivery instruction from the first label to a medication delivery device ~~to deliver the medication to the patient; and~~

(h) the medication delivery device storing the medication delivery instruction and delivering the medication to the patient.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of the medication delivery device performing periodic checks of the operating parameters of the medication delivery device against the medication delivery instruction downloaded from the handheld computing device to ensure the operating parameters are within the ranges set by the medication delivery instruction after starting the delivery of the medication.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the first label is encoded with the prescribed medication data and the instruction of delivering the medication derived from a print stream generated from a pharmacy information system.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for medication delivery comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a medication container containing a prescribed medication and a first label containing data on the prescribed medication and instruction of delivering of the medication, the prescribed medication data and the instruction of delivering the medication being provided in machine readable format;

(b) providing a tag adapted to be worn by a patient, the tag having a second label containing data of the patient, the patient data being provided in machine readable format;

(c) providing a handheld computing device with:

means for reading the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction from the first label and patient data from the second label;

means for storing the data and instruction; and

means for communicating data and instruction to other electronic devices; and

(d) the handheld computing device reading and storing the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction from the first label;

(e) the handheld computing device reading and storing the patient data from the second label;

(f) the handheld computing device comparing the stored prescribed medication data to the stored patient data and confirming a match between the stored prescribed medication data and the stored patient data; ~~and~~

(g) the handheld computing device communicating ~~and downloading~~ the stored medication delivery instruction from the first label to a medication delivery device ~~to deliver the medication to the patient; and~~

(h) the medication delivery device storing the medication delivery instruction and delivering the medication to the patient.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for medication delivery comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~identifying~~ reading medication data contained in a first label on a medication container containing a prescribed medication using a handheld computing device and storing the medication data in the handheld computing device, the first label containing data on the prescribed medication and instruction of delivering of the medication, the prescribed medication data and the instruction of delivering the medication being provided in machine readable format;

(b) ~~identifying~~ reading patient data contained in a second label on a tag adapted to be worn by a patient using a handheld computing device and storing the patient data in the handheld computing device, the second label containing data of the patient, the patient data being provided in machine readable format;

(c) the handheld computing device comparing the medication data to the patient data ~~by a handheld computing device~~, the handheld computing device having:

means for reading the prescribed medication data and medication delivery instruction from the first label and patient data from the second label;

means for storing the data and instruction; and

means for communicating data and instruction to other electronic devices; ~~and~~

(d) the handheld computing device confirming a match between the data and communicating ~~and downloading~~ the stored instruction of delivering the medication from the first label to a medication delivery device; and

(h) the medication delivery device storing the medication delivery instruction and delivering the medication to the patient.